

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CAT Project reference: **00/3a**

CAT Report **65**

**Site:** Quilters Public House, Middleborough

**NGR:** TL 9927 2560

**Date:** 9th March 2000

**Officer:** H Brooks

**Contractors:** W.A. Hills

**Agents:** Apex Project Management

**Client:** Quilters

**Report:**

Background

An evaluation has already been carried out on this site <sup>1</sup>. This showed that there were medieval and Roman deposits containing preserved timber and leather at between 1.8m and 2.0m below site ground at that time (4.35 - 4.15 m AOD). The site location, title page and plan and section of one trench are appended here. The thickness the material lying over the archaeological deposits was due to the dumping of soil on the site in recent centuries (as happened along most of the river side area).

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Footings trenches had already been dug out and filled with concrete. In the short vertical face still visible above the level of poured concrete, modern brick and pebble rubble lay over a dark soily layer. It was difficult to be certain whether this level was within horizon B of evaluation trench 1, or whether it intruded slightly into horizon C. Observation of early stages of this work (under a separate arrangement) noted that the amount stripped off the site varied from approximately 300mm on the river side to 600 mm on the north side of the house. Therefore 1-metre-deep footings below the stripped level should not have penetrated the topsoil blanket over the site.

**Finds:**

None

**Summary:**

Negative.

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<sup>1</sup> *An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation rear of Middleborough House (21 Middleborough), Colchester, Essex: September 1999. Colchester Archaeological Trust Report 42.*